

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

FACT SHEET

RENEWAL OF WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0022721)

FOR

CITY OF FERNDALE MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Humboldt County

The City of Ferndale has applied for renewal of waste discharge requirements to discharge treated wastewater under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) from the City's municipal wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). The Regional Water Board will consider the adoption of new waste discharge requirements at its November 29, 2000 Board meeting at the Eureka City Council Chambers, 531 K Street, Eureka, California.

Wastewater flows from the City of Ferndale's WWTF range between 100,000 gallons per day (gpd) to 3.7 million gallons per day (mgd) during winter storms. The design flow of the WWTF is 1.0 mgd. The average winter flow (October through April) is approximately 771,000 gpd. The average summer flow (May through September) is approximately 256,000 gpd. The WWTF provides secondary treatment and consists of a settling basin, aerated lagoon, chlorine contact basin, and dechlorination system. The treatment facility discharges to agricultural land, owned by Elias and Marilyn Sousa, during the dry weather season, and to Francis Creek near its confluence with the Salt River at 40°35'40" north, 124°15'44" west during the wet weather season.

Effluent limitations for conventional pollutants are based on secondary effluent standards pursuant to 40 CFR 133.103. The total suspended solids limit for effluent discharges is authorized by 40 CFR 133.103(c) and the Environmental Protection Agency's determination for waste stabilization ponds at 43 Federal Register 53161. Additional effluent limitations, receiving water limitations, and discharge prohibitions are based upon water quality objectives and receiving water limitations contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan).

The discharge does not contain nonpriority pollutants at levels that will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any water quality standards. This finding is based in part on the summer discharge prohibition and the 100:1 dilution requirements for winter discharge.

Effluent limitations and toxic and pretreatment effluent standards are established pursuant to Sections 208(b), 301, 302, 303(d), 304, 306, 307, and 403 of the Clean Water Act and amendments thereto. The State Water Resources Control Board adopted the *Policy for Implementation of Toxics Standards for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California* (also known as the State Implementation Plan or SIP). This policy establishes implementation provisions for priority pollutant criteria promulgated by the EPA through the National Toxics Rule (NTR) and through the California Toxics Rule (CTR). The proposed NPDES permit implements provisions of the SIP.

The NPDES permit contains a Monitoring and Reporting Program to determine:

1. Compliance with Effluent Limitations, Receiving Water Limitations, and Discharge Prohibitions;
2. What priority pollutants, if any, may require water quality-based effluent limitations; and
3. Whether or not the discharge is toxic to aquatic organisms in the receiving waters.

Copies of the draft permit may be obtained by contacting the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, at the address above.

For any additional information or questions in this matter, please contact:

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